

Atty. Docket No. 426989

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A strand jewelry device comprising:
a strand having a first end and a second end,
a connector assembly for reversibly coupling the first end and the second end of
the strand,
at least one band fixedly attached to the strand, and the band presenting an outer
circumference,
at least one ornament,
the ornament having a through opening of greater circumference than the outer
circumference of the band, the greater circumference being sufficiently
large to permit complete passage of the ornament over the band, and
at least one keeper configured for reversible attachment over the band,
the keeper being sufficiently large to prevent further passage of the ornament
across the band when the keeper is attached to the band,
wherein the keeper interacts with the band by abutment ~~with reversible
attachment of the band and keeper to restrict the movement of a bead the~~
ornament when the bead resides on the strand.
2. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 1, wherein a
bore of the keeper is threaded and the band is threaded on an external surface, the
threaded bore of the keeper and the threaded surface of the band capable of interaction to
reversibly fix the threaded keeper on the strand.
3. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 1, wherein the
keeper comprises two hollow sections hinged together, each section having two walls,
each wall having a notch, each notch of depth approximating one half the diameter of the
strand, the sections and the band capable of interaction by the hinged keeper engulfing
the band to reversibly fix the hinged keeper on the strand.
4. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 3 wherein the
sections are reversibly secured in a closed position by a latch attached to one section.

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5. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 1 further comprising at least one threaded keeper and at least one hinged keeper.
6. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 5 wherein the threaded keeper and the hinged keeper further comprise decorative elements.
7. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 6 wherein the decorative element of the threaded keeper differs from the decorative element of the hinged keeper.
8. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 2 wherein the threaded keeper has any three-dimension geometric shape.
9. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 3 wherein the hinged keeper has any three-dimension geometric shape.
10. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 2 wherein the threaded keeper has a cylindrical, spherical, cubic, or pyramid shape.
11. (Currently Amended) The strand jewelry device of claim 3 wherein the threaded hinged keeper has a cylindrical, spherical, cubic or pyramid shape.
12. (Currently Amended) A process of reversibly restricting the movement of beads ornaments on a strand, wherein the beads ornaments have bores and are strung on the strand by their bores, and a band having an external diameter less than the diameter of the bead ornament bores is fixed on the strand, comprising the step:
 - a. attaching to the band a keeper having an external diameter greater than the diameter of the bead-ornament bores.
13. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 12 wherein the band has an external thread and the keeper has a threaded bore, the keeper attached to the band by the steps comprising:
 - a. threading the keeper onto the strand,
 - b. bringing the keeper and the band into contact, and

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- c. rotating the keeper, ~~engaging to engage~~ the band and the keeper threads and attach the keeper to the band.

14. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 12 wherein the keeper has two hollow sections hinged together comprising the steps:

- a. positioning the hinged keeper over ~~a~~ the band, and
b. closing the hinged keeper over the band to attach the keeper to the band.

15. (Currently Amended) The strand jewelry device of claim 1, further comprising at least one ~~bead-ornament~~ bore having a hole of sufficient size to pass over an element of the connector mechanism to permit residence of the bead on the strand, the size of the hole being insufficient to permit passage of the ~~bead-ornament~~ over the keeper.

16. (Currently Amended) A strand jewelry device that is selectively configurable by a wearer for positional bead retention, comprising:

a strand having

a first end,

a second end, and

at least one band of variant cross-section with respect to ~~a~~ adjacent portions of the strand that are immediately adjacent to the band;

a connector assembly for detachably coupling the first end with the second end of the strand to configure the strand as a loop;

at least one keeper configured and arranged for selective placement around the band,

the keeper having a bore of complementary dimensions with respect to the variant cross-section such that the keeper is retained in position at the band by abutment when installed on the band,

at least one ornament,

the band fixedly circumscribing the strand to provide the variant cross-section as a larger circumference with respect to the strand, the bead defining a hole of sufficient dimension to pass over the larger circumference,

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the keeper having sufficient outer dimensions to prevent the beads from moving across the keeper when the ~~beads are~~ ornament is installed on the strand.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The strand jewelry device of claim ~~18~~ 16, wherein the ~~variant cross section~~ outer circumference of the band includes the band having a threaded outer surface.

20. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 19, wherein the bore of the keeper is internally threaded and the complimentary dimensions of the bore are taken with respect to abutment between the threaded outer surface and internal threads of the bore.

21. (Currently Amended) The strand jewelry device of claim ~~18~~ 16, wherein the band has a smooth outer surface.

22. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 16, wherein the keeper has a bivalve construction for clamping around the band.

23. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 16, wherein the bivalve construction comprises
a hinge pivotally connecting
a first bivalve element with
a second bivalve element, and
a latch positioned for connecting the first bivalve element with the second bivalve element in a closed configuration that defines the bore.

24. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 16, wherein the bore comprises longitudinal notches running parallel with the strand.

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25. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 16, wherein the strand presents a diameter and the longitudinal notches have a hemispherical construction approximating one half the diameter of the strand.

26. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 16, comprising a plurality of the keepers, the plurality of the keepers including at least one threaded keeper and at least one hinged keeper.

27. (Currently Amended) The strand jewelry device of claim ~~16~~26, wherein the threaded keeper and the hinged keeper each present a decorative motif.

28. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 27, wherein the wherein the decorative element of the threaded keeper differs from the decorative element of the hinged keeper.

29. (Currently Amended) A strand jewelry device comprising:
a strand;
means for selectively configuring the strand as a loop;
means for adapting a circumference of the band at a locus that permits passage of an ornament over the locus; and
means for keeping ~~beads~~ ornaments on an area of the strand by interaction with the means for adapting to prevent passage of the ornaments over the locus.

30. (Previously Presented) The strand jewelry device of claim 29, further comprising a plurality of decorative beads positioned on the strand by the means for keeping.